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Sawt al-Jihad #30: "Interview with the Martyr Karim al-Mejjati"



"Interview with the Martyr Karim al-Tuhami al-Mejjati"
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"This interview was conducted a few days before our brother Karim al-Mejjati became a martyr during the Battle of al-Ras in 2005. As a result of the increasing number of stories and claims with respect to the biography of the commander and mujahid Karim al-Tuhami al-Mejjati, and per his request, the following interview was conducted. During the interview, he clarifies his jihadi biography and some of the claims made in reference to him. Let us begin the interview."

Q: "Tell us your name and some brief personal information (country of birth, childhood, etc.)."

A: "My name is Karim al-Mejjati (a.k.a. Abu Elyas al-Maghrebi). I was born in Rabat [Morocco] in the year 1967. I lived in Casablanca with a Moroccan father and French mother. I studied medicine in France but never completed my studies. My father and mother tried to educate me well, as they claimed, without teaching me about the pillars of Islam and how to practice my religion. My soul became devoid of Allah, piety, and repentance. I grew up in a home that knew no prayers, no worship, and no piety. Despite my mother's compassion and goodness, and [despite] the fact that people knew that she was a goodhearted woman in her actions that recognized the supremacy of Islam even though she was Christian and of French descent... and despite my father's honesty with others and his hatred of treachery, I objected to the fact that he did not commit himself to Islam as a Moroccan Muslim, and strongly objected to the fact that he did not observe all the mandatory prayers. I remember that I was embarrassed of being ignorant, dreamt of a better life, and hated corruption. We loved America and wished to live there and be one of them. However, whenever I met Westerners, I would defend Islam despite the fact that I was distanced from it. My friends in France were Arabs, and my dearest friends were Afghan and we lived together lost and estranged."

Q: "When did you commit yourself to Islam and what guided you toward the righteous path?"

A: "The condition I described above is what brought me to search for the truth for many years until I finally found the perfect and open path that leads to all that is good, I abandoned apostasy and infidelity, and I entered Islam. In 1991, when I saw the American bombardment of a Muslim country in which women and children were killed... and when I saw a Muslim woman who wanted to wear a hijab, was prevented from doing so and was expelled, I defended her, not knowing a thing about Islam. I then started to pray and commit myself to my religion. Praise be to Allah who guides us to the righteous path, for had he not done so we would not have been on the right path. Praise be to Allah for blessing us with Islam and praise him for [enabling us] to know the truth behind the Earth and humanity and for knowing that our creator is Allah to whom be ascribed all perfection and majesty... We used to live astray like cattle. Our life was [about] sleeping, eating, marrying, and working, and we





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did not know what was waiting for us in the afterlife... I cannot forget my righteous wife, who was one of the reasons for my being guided to the right path. I was 24 years-old at the time, and a month after I committed myself to Islam, I married her so that Allah would protect my religion and dignity from the temptations of the impious lost communities, lest they drag us into infidelity and apostasy—Allah forbid—and cause us to abandon our prayers and worship of Allah the one and only. Yes, Islam is at the base of our society; however, today we have become estranged from it, estranged from making vows to our religion, estranged from the beard and the hijab, the five mandatory daily prayers, and from going to the mosque and wearing Islamic clothing. Praise be to Allah for protecting our ideology and our desire to abide by this religion.”

Q: “Why did you join the Mujahideen in Bosnia? How did you enter Bosnia?”

A: “A year later, in 1992, I traveled to France for business reasons. I came across a film that my Muslim brothers had. It was called ‘The Bosnian Holocausts’ and it was the reason I joined my Bosnian brothers in Bosnia. I headed off [to Bosnia] and took part in establishing a school and military camp for Quranic and Islamic studies and for military training. When I returned to my country in 1993 in order to immigrate [to Bosnia] with my pregnant wife and my six month old child, the road was blocked. During that time the Croatian forces were killing, oppressing, and arresting our Muslim brothers, Arab and Bosnian. I tried to enter alone during that increasingly complicated period, and I was arrested in the border town of Mostar, which was half-Muslim



Karim al-Mejjati (a.k.a. Abu Elyas al-Maghrebi)

and half Croatian-Christian. I was imprisoned along with civilians at Mostar airport. There were seven thousand innocent men, women, and children there. The days went by, Allah protected me, and I was released thanks to the military attaché at the French Embassy in Zagreb, the Croatian capital. Throughout my time in prison, I hid my Muslim identity and prayed in my heart. After Allah saved me from them, I prepared for Afghanistan. I went there [to Afghanistan] in 1994 and entered the Khalden military camp that was established by Shaykh Abdullah Azzam, may Allah have mercy on his soul, during the days of the battles against the Russians in the Khost region. Praise be to Allah, I managed to take all the courses and began a new life. I became a soldier for Allah with my basic Shariah knowledge and my military knowledge. I understood my obligation to be a soldier for Allah and how I would help this religion with Islamic knowledge, Islamic missionary work, and Jihad, and I thereupon returned to Morocco.”

“My entry into Bosnia was unusual. A convoy of three vans filled with packaged food supplies, clothes, and six Arabs, was ready to enter Bosnia from France after traveling through Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia. They were on their second trip and they refused to let me join them as they headed to the Bosnian jihad. I came across two Algerian brothers and we entered using French passports. One of them had trained in Afghanistan and was wearing an Afghan uniform. I remember that our hopes were low. They stopped us at the Italian border and found a large quantity of medicinal drugs which they believed were narcotics. The convoy in front of us continued on after we had been stopped and we were now alone. They denied us entrance to Slovenia twice, yet we were determined to try again and we entered on our third attempt using a different route after we paid a bribe. On our way to the city of Split in central Croatia, we managed to pass through ten military checkpoints, praise be to Allah,



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despite the fact that we were Arabs and despite the brother's clothing. We even stayed at a guesthouse in Split for several days. We then set off without any guidance and followed a road marked on the map until we finally reached the city of Pazaric in Bosnia. The trip was exhausting and scary. Morning to night, we noticed the signs of the war all along our way. We passed by areas in which we heard gunfire and an area in which snipers fired at cars and trucks. Allah spared us from all of that. At the first Bosnian checkpoint, we were happy to see the Bosnian flag and the Muslim Bosnian soldiers. They welcomed us and knew that we were mujahideen. They were even happier to see us. That evening, we reached a small dark town that was covered in fog. We knocked on the doors of the roadside homes until we were finally guided to the grand mosque, where we found the convoy [of martyrs], and the residence of the mosque's Imam, praise be to Allah. Mount Igman overlooks the city. Part of it is controlled by Muslims. The Serbs are concentrated in the other part where they snipe at Muslim children, women, and elderly. I then passed through the cities of Kiseljak and Visoko, which is where we established the Zenica School. It is a nice country. The people identify with us and are willing to defend their land. It is strange that you find areas that are [jointly] controlled by Croatians and Bosnians, or a Bosnian or Croatian area right in the middle, and areas in which Serbs or Croatians fight Muslims. Kiseljak is a Croatian-Christian city for instance. The situation in Bosnia was tense and we were always on the lookout."

Q: "What was it like being imprisoned in Bosnia?"

"In prison, we were 60 people on 60 square meters. The youngest was 12 years old while the oldest was 60. You eat only once or twice—yellow soup and stale bread. After 15 days I was given some nutritious food because I was fatigued. Such treatment was only for foreigners like myself and not for Bosnians. One day, journalists from Reuters came to take pictures of us and I tried to stay away from this. A British journalist wanted to interview the prisoners. The guard selected six Bosnians and one of them pushed me over to him. I talked to the journalist. He saw my passport, took my name, and promised that he would talk to the French Embassy so that Allah would release me. I also recall that the guards used to come with crates of pork products during the evening and distributed them to the inmates knowing that they were hungry."

Q: "What do you say about the men who carried out the operations in Casablanca, Madrid, and Istanbul?"

A: "As for the questions that arose concerning those who carried out the operations in Casablanca, Madrid, and Istanbul: I bless those heroes who raised the Islamic nation's head up high, sacrificed all that they deemed precious, and gave their souls in the cause of Allah. They understood the meaning of 'No God other than Allah' and, Allah willing, they are now in paradise. I ask Allah, the supreme and almighty, to allow me to meet them in paradise. He is the one who is capable of doing this for he is almighty."

Q: "What was your trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan like? What were the miracles you witnessed? Which operations did you take part in? What did you learn?"

A: "I returned to Afghanistan in 1995, 1997, and 1999. During my most recent visit to Afghanistan, a month before the events of 9/11, I took my wife and children with me. I benefited from all these trips in the sense of preparation and the like. Allah enabled me to take part in fighting the apostates and the Americans in Kandahar airport, and in Saudi Arabia alongside my brothers. Traveling to Pakistan and Afghanistan is something a mujahid never forgets because of all the communities who show solidarity [with the mujahideen], and all the open routes to jihad, and everyone's cooperation with the mujahideen... You are walking on the land on which the strongest force on Earth collapsed thanks to



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the glorious creator... you cannot forget Afghanistan's beauty, and the adherence of its people to Islamic attire as if their society was the society of the Companions of the Prophet. The turban proves their strength. They love Arabs and even said to us that we were the descendants of the [Prophet's] companions. I will never forget that good pure land on which the martyrs have fallen for thirty years. Over there, you feel that Allah is pleased with, you in contrast to how you feel in your country. I remember a miracle that I witnessed at the Khalden military camp. It was late in the afternoon. Approximately 20 brothers were in the field, training with an 82mm artillery cannon, when we suddenly noticed clouds shaped like the word 'Allah' moving from south to north in a clear sky. At that time, there was a fierce battle in Kabul between [Gulbuddin] Hekmatyar and [Ahmad Shah] Massoud in the north, and the Taliban in Kandahar in the south. We were in the Khost region. The operation that I took part in was an ambush on the Kandahar airport road targeting the forces of Gul Agha. Allah enabled us to capture and kill his enemies, and infiltrate the enemy ranks at night. We were four, and our goal was to detect the presence of the enemy. After we confirmed such a presence, we waited for a short while to observe what they were doing. We were caught by surprise by a fierce bombardment with cluster bombs on our position. Praise be to Allah, they landed 10 meters away from us, yet none of us were wounded. I learned about all the light and heavy weaponry that is used in the mountains and in the cities. I also learned how to use and manufacture explosives, as well as [military] tactics concerning mountain and urban warfare and topography."

Q: "Who are the most famous commanders you fought under and learned from?"



Abu Zubaydah al-Falastini



Abu Qatada al-Falastini



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed



Abu Laith al-Liby

A: "I will not forget my brothers Ibn Shaykh al-Liby and Abu Zubaydah al-Falastini who supervised me during my military training and taught me about glory. I will not forget my Muslim brother Shaykh Abu Qatada al-Falastini who taught me my ideology. I will not forget my brother al-Mukhtar al-Baluchi (Khalid Sheikh Mohammed) who revived our spirit of sacrifice for this religion and who was in charge of me in Pakistan. I will not forget my dear and beloved brother and commander Abu Mustafa al-Iraqi, Allah have great mercy on his soul, from Kandahar before the redeployment—who was killed during the withdrawal. I will not forget my brother and commander Abu Laith al-Liby, Allah help him, who was my commander in Kabul before the city fell. We ask Allah to free the heroes who sacrificed their souls in his name. We ask him to protect all of us and reward us with martyrdom for his cause after we massacre and avenge his enemies. We ask him to accept us and help his religion and our brothers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Algeria, and every other region where our brothers and sisters need assistance."